

Process Overview for Emergency Preparedness

Summary:

The NRC continues to ensure U.S. nuclear power plants have enhanced their emergency preparedness (EP) staffing and communication capabilities by reviewing plant-specific analyses, developing inspection guidance in this area, and developing proposed regulations.

Background:

- NRC's 10 CFR 50.54(f) letter (ADAMS Accession No. [ML12053A340](#)) requested plants to assess:
 - The current number of emergency staff needed to respond to a multi-unit event during a beyond-design-basis event and determine enhancements.
 - The current communications systems and equipment used during an emergency event and determine enhancements to maintain communications.
- The industry issues NEI 12-01 (ADAMS Accession No. [ML12125A412](#)), which provides guidance for staffing and communication assessments.
- All licensees submitted their communications assessments by October 2012 and NRC staff issued staff evaluations in July 2013.
- Licensees are responding to the staffing portion in two phases:
 - Phase 1 (multi-unit sites only): plants provided staffing plan for functions except those related to mitigation strategies; NRC completed Phase 1 review.
 - Phase 2: staffing plan for functions related to mitigation strategies; NRC staff assessments for Phase 2 staffing plans should be done in 2015.
- Proposed regulations on emergency staffing and communications are being considered in the proposed Mitigation of Beyond-Design-Basis Events rulemaking activity approved in [SRM SECY-14-0046](#).

Process Overview:

- EP communication:
 - Plants assess communication capabilities using NEI 12-01.
 - Plants assess and identify enhancements to ensure communications are maintained during a large-scale external event.
 - Plants provide interim actions and develop an implementation schedule.
 - NRC issues staff evaluation report.
- EP staffing:
 - Plants assess number of staff needed for adequate emergency response.
 - Phase 1 and 2 studies completed using NEI 12-01.
 - Only multi-unit plants perform analyses to respond to Phase 1.
 - All plants perform analyses for Phase 2 and submit to the NRC for review.
 - NRC staff reviews and issues responses to plant licensees.
- NRC uses these evaluations to determine if additional regulatory actions are needed.

References:

Additional information about EP staffing and communication initiatives can be found on the "[Implementation Status](#)" page under the Japan Lessons Learned section of the NRC public Web site.